

### ON VARIOUS TOPICS

**California State Legislature.**—On June 16, the fifty-fourth biennial session of the California Legislature adjourned. There is little new to add to the information already given in *CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* (May issue, on page 285, and for June, on page 345). While several measures designed to promote public health activities went down to defeat, the end results, in so far as organized and scientific medicine are concerned, were as good as could have been expected.

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**Congress.**—The Senate and House of Representatives, at Washington, still in session owing to existing emergencies, has not recently enacted laws inimical to the standards of medical and public health practice, although many such measures have been introduced. It is doubtful whether proposed statutes, modeled after the Wagner Health Insurance Act, will be vigorously pushed during the present session.

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**Osteopathic Interns for the Army.**—In the California Medical Association Department of Public Policy and Legislation, appears a memorandum concerning efforts to make it possible to employ osteopathic interns in the medical department of the United States Army.\*

The matter of osteopathic interns is of considerable importance, for several reasons:

Sectarian schools of the healing art do not maintain standards of preliminary education and of professional training that measure up to those demanded for nonsectarian schools by the Association of American Medical Colleges and Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association; and

Officers in the medical corps of the United States Army must have graduation credentials from an accredited medical school. They would be handicapped in their work if they were obliged to rely on interns whose concepts of disease and injury were at variance with their own.

Not to be forgotten, also, is what experience has taught: that lowering of standards and appointment of such persons nearly always pave the way for further inroads by such groups.

California Medical Association members who care for additional information in these matters should consult their county society secretaries.

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**C. M. A. Annual Session of 1942.**—The Council of the California Medical Association is not in position to designate the dates of the next annual session, until the Trustees of the American Medical Association decide the time of meeting of the national organization. Unless a conflict arises, the Council will probably adhere to its custom, and choose the first week of May as the time of gathering for the 1942 annual session.

Members of the Association who contemplate reports on studies should write at an early day to

\* Members who wish to write to the United States Senators and Representatives from California will find the names of the Congressmen on page 285 of the May issue. See also informative item on page 44.

the Secretary of the Scientific Section, before which the paper or address would be given. The roster of Section Officers appears in each issue, on advertising page 6.

The scientific exhibits of the national and state medical associations grow in interest and number with each year. In the June issue, on page 346, was given the list of prize winners at the recent Del Monte session. The Committee on Scientific Work urges all who are in position to present scientific exhibits to begin their preparation at an early date. Correspondence regarding such exhibits should be addressed to the Association Secretary, who is the chairman of the Committee on Scientific Work.

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**Antivivisection Propaganda.**—During the last several weeks, what seems to be a well-defined effort in antivivisection propaganda has been much in evidence in a well-known string of newspapers, the articles being played up on first pages, in bold-face type and with full-page illustrations of supposed examples of cruelties done to lower animals.

Seemingly, little can be done in the premises, since the views of the publisher in question are well known, and it follows that his representatives on the different newspapers take their instructions from him.

It is to be regretted that misinformation, concerning animal experimentation and its value in the prolongation of health and life for both human beings and the lower animals, should be so widely broadcast. The suggestion has been made that the present effort may be part of a plan designed to influence congressmen concerning several pending measures that would be applicable to the District of Columbia, whereby animal experimentation in that national domain, no matter how well and properly safeguarded, would practically be prevented.

Propaganda campaigns of this kind, through which the interests of scientific medicine and the public health are jeopardized, only emphasize the need and value of sound public health education through other channels than that to be had by purchase of expensive newspaper advertising space. Such a medium is at hand in the state and county fairs of California, concerning which editorial comment is elsewhere made in this issue. With the coöperation of county societies and their members, this method of education could be developed in such wise as to neutralize, in large measure, the dogmatic and misleading statements of some of the sponsors of so-called antivivisection propaganda.

### CHANGES IN OFFICIAL JOURNAL'S FORMAT: EDITORIAL BOARD

**Changes Conserve Space and Money.**—*CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE* this month changes its format slightly. The difference is intended as a convenience to the reader and an economy to the publisher. Type pages remain the same size as before, but margins have been trimmed a bit. Editorial features are included in this issue in the same form as in the past. Advertising pages

have been somewhat rearranged, with nothing omitted, in order to accomplish an economy of space; the additional pages thus made available will be used for the publication of additional scientific material.

Together with a change in binding made several months ago and a change in paper stock made last month, the new format of this issue brings into complete being a program of publication economy long discussed and recently agreed upon by the Council of the Association. It is hoped that this program will make the pages of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE even more valuable to its readers than in the past, and at the same time will accomplish monetary economies that will be reflected in the Association's financial statements.

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**Editorial Board for "California and Western Medicine."**—At Del Monte, the Council appointed an Editorial Board to whose members will be referred annual session manuscripts. The executive committee of the Board will cooperate with the Editor and Committee on Publications. (See June issue, on page 351.) The representatives of the specialty groups who are members of the Editorial Board are as follows:

*Chairman of the Board:*

George D. Barnett

*Executive Committee:*

Sumner Everingham, Oakland, Chairman.  
Mast Wolfson, Monterey.  
Albert J. Scholl, Los Angeles.  
George W. Walker, Fresno.  
Chauncey D. Leake, San Francisco.

*Anesthesiology:*

Charles F. McCuskey, Glendale.  
H. R. Hathaway, San Francisco.

*Dermatology and Syphilology:*

H. J. Templeton, Oakland.  
William H. Goeckerman, Los Angeles.

*Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat:*

Frederick C. Cordes, San Francisco.  
L. G. Hunnicutt, Pasadena.  
George W. Walker, Fresno.

*General Medicine:*

George D. Barnett, San Francisco.  
George H. Houck, Los Angeles.  
Mast Wolfson, Monterey.

*General Surgery (including Orthopedics):*

Frederick C. Bost, San Francisco.  
Clarence J. Berne, Los Angeles.  
Sumner Everingham, Oakland.

*Industrial Medicine and Surgery:*

Richard O. Schofield, Sacramento.  
Delos Packard Thurber, Los Angeles.

*Plastic Surgery:*

George W. Pierce, San Francisco.  
William S. Kiskadden, Los Angeles.

*Neuropsychiatry:*

John B. Doyle, Los Angeles.  
Olga Bridgman, San Francisco.

*Obstetrics and Gynecology:*

Erle Henriksen, Los Angeles.  
Daniel G. Morton, San Francisco.

*Pediatrics:*

William A. Reilly, San Francisco.  
William W. Belford, San Diego.

*Pathology and Bacteriology:*

David A. Wood, San Francisco.  
R. J. Pickard, San Diego.

*Radiology:*

R. R. Newell, San Francisco.  
Henry J. Ullmann, Santa Barbara.

*Urology:*

Lewis Michelson, San Francisco.  
Albert J. Scholl, Los Angeles.

*Pharmacology:*

Chauncey D. Leake, San Francisco.  
Clinton H. Thienes, Los Angeles.

**Other State Association and Component County Society News.**—Additional news concerning the activities and work of the California Medical Association and its component county medical societies is printed in this issue, commencing on page 37.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT†

### NEOPLASTIGENIC SENSITIVITY

The development of technical methods for the study of "latent neoplasms" or "subthreshold neoplastic states," is currently reported by Rous,<sup>1</sup> Kidd and MacKenzie,<sup>2</sup> of the Rockefeller Institute.

When a carcinogenic agent is applied to mammalian skin it nearly always elicits preliminary benign growths. These precancerous states have thus far received relatively little attention, due largely to the fact that in the mouse, the commonest experimental animal, the initial "warts" are prone to become malignant very soon. In rabbits, however, the initial neoplasms retain their benign character for long periods of time,<sup>3</sup> only a small percentage of them becoming malignant after months or years of repeated tarring. If the tarring is interrupted in the benign stage, the growths almost invariably dwindle and disappear, the skin being restored to apparently normal. About ten years ago, however, it was shown by des Ligneris<sup>4</sup> of South Africa, that this restoration is physiologically incomplete, the apparently normal skin remaining for many months hypersusceptible to tar. On reapplication of tar there is an explosive response, new warts often appearing within 10 days as contrasted with the 5 months tarring required in normal controls. This acquired neoplastigenic allergy or hypersusceptibility is described by Rous and his coworkers

† This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE presents editorial comments by contributing members on items of medical progress, science and practice, and on topics from recent medical books or journals. An invitation is extended to all members of the California Medical Association to submit brief editorial discussions suitable for publication in this department. No presentation should be over five hundred words in length.

<sup>1</sup> Rous, P., and Kidd, J. G.: Jour. Exper. Med., 73:365 (Mar.), 1941.

<sup>2</sup> MacKenzie, I., and Rous, P.: Jour. Exper. Med., 73:391 (Mar.), 1941.

<sup>3</sup> Rous, P., and Kidd, J. G.: Jour. Exper. Med., 69:399, 1939.

<sup>4</sup> des Ligneris, M. J. A., Annual Report of the South African Institute for Medical Research, 1930, 1.